Indian National Returned from Kuwait

2675. SHRI G. PARATHAPA-REDDY:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMA-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to redress the grievances of Indian nationals who were working in Kuwait during the Gulf war and whose monetary assets are still lying in Kuwait;

(b) how many such persons are there and what is their reported amount still lying in Kuwait; and

(c) what are the details of their grievances which are proposed to redressed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) The Government have taken a number of steps to alleviate the grievances of Indian national with assets still lying in Kuwait since the Gulf crisis. These include execuion of a power of attorney, assistance by our Embassy in Kuwait and establishment of a Special Kuwait Cell for facilitating the filing of claims with the United Nations Compensation Commission, Geneva.

(b) The Special Kuwait Cell has registered about 152,000 compensation claims. Governments have no information regarding the amount still lying in Kuwait.

(c) Redressal of grievances would depend on the evaluation of the claims by, and availability of funds with, the United Nations Compensation Commission.

Delay in issuing of passports

2676. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how much time is taken by Regional Passport Office, Delhi to issue a passport to an applicant;

(b) whether the receipt of police reports after long time by the R.P.O., Delhi, is one of the reasons for delay;

(c) whether any cases of loss of police reports after their receipt in the said office have also come to notice;

(d) whether it is also a fact that recently there have been complaints about the issuance of such passports where the expiry dates marked on the passports happened to be earlier than the issuing dates; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and what procedure is adopted for correcting such passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) In the normal course it takes 55 to 60 days to issue a passport at Regional Passport Office, Delhi.

(b) and (c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) No such complaint has come to Government's notice. It is however, possible that clerical errors of this nature might occur, in which case the passport office concerned would correct the entry when the matter is brought to its attention.

Streamline the process of issuing pasport

2677. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI BHUBANESHWAR KALITA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to further simplify and streamline the process of applying for passports and issue thereof; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b)